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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT

Hungarian Army Chemical Warfare
Training School

DATE DISTR. 28 March 1957

25X1

NO. PAGES 1

REQUIREMENT
NO. RD

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

DATE OF
INFO.

REFERENCES

25X1

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Attached is a report on the Szentendre chemical warfare training
school

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Military/Scientific

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Gas-Warfare Training Unit for Hungarian Army Officers

1. At the Hungarian Army camp at SZENTENDRE, about 20 kms. north of BUDAPEST on the west bank of the Danube, there is a unit designed to train officers in gas-warfare. The camp also has units for training in bridge-building, road-making and demolition, and also a unit for training the officers commanding Danube patrol-boats. There are normally about 1,000 army students undergoing training at any one time at this school.
2. Personnel are chosen for the gas-warfare course before they are commissioned. They then receive gas-training and ordinary training simultaneously, and at the end of the one year's course, pass out both as officers and as specialists in gas-warfare. During the period 1952 - 1953, about 240 officers were trained per year by this gas-warfare unit.
3. Training included defensive as well as offensive measures. Trainees were told of, but not shown, American gas-bombs "used in Korea".
4. Five classes of gas were dealt with at the school:-
 - (a) Tear-gas and coughing-gas
 - (i) BROM-ACETON
 - (ii) BROM-BENZIL-CYANIDE
 - (iii) Unknown, but similar effects (i.e. watering eyes, watering mouth, running nose, sickness). Prolonged exposure to this gas produced a permanent inflammation under the eyes.
 - (b) (i) PHOSGENE
 - (ii) DE-PHOSGENE (15 or 20 minutes exposure is sufficient to kill within a few days)

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(iii) PHOSGENE-OXYN (similar results.)

(iv) Name unknown.

(o) Liquid-gas

(i) Mustard

(ii) LEWISITE

(d) CYANIDE - The most dangerous.

(e) German gasses (believed to be those used by the Germans in concentration camps).

(1) TABUN

(ii) EARIN

(iii) SOMAN

(iv) DEISOPROPYL-FLUOR-PHOSPHATE (D.F.P.)

5. Training on this last group of gases (i.e. para 4(e) (i) - (iv)) was in theory only. It is not known whether they are actually being produced or not.

6. It is thought that the Hungarian gas producing factory is the KENSAV GYAR in ILLATOS UT, BUDAPEST (IX).

7. It is presumed that there are stocks of gas-bombs and gas-shells ready for use but it is not known where.

8. Of the five groups of gases, only the first one, the tear-gas group, is intended for use by infantry. The rest are for use in bombs and shells.

9. The entire school at SZENTENDRE had only one Russian military adviser. There was no Russian specifically attached to the gas-warfare unit.

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